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# State of Utah

## DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

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### Division of Oil, Gas and Mining

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September 9, 2016

Ms. Raphael Cordray  
Utah Tar Sands Resistance  
Via email: [Craphaelc@gmail.com](mailto:Craphaelc@gmail.com)

Dear Ms. Cordray:

This letter is in response to your concerns about the PR Spring US Oil Sands (USOS) mining operation. It appears you have four specific concerns:

#### Dust Suppression

As you are aware, the mine straddles the Uintah and Grand county lines, with the Uintah County area designated as "Indian Country." Air quality permitting falls to the EPA-Region 8 in Denver for Indian Country and the Utah Division of Air Quality (DAQ) for the Grand County side. As far as the Division is aware, EPA has not required any type of air quality permitting for US Oil Sands. Grand County is designated by DAQ as an attainment area, which means they do not require fugitive dust control plans for sites in Grand County. That being said however, the Division understands DAQ does reserve the right to conduct inspections of the mine if they feel it is warranted. USOS does have internal procedures for a fugitive dust plan which includes daily spraying of haul roads using water trucks and once production starts, regular monitoring and spraying of overburden, interburden and the ore piles.

#### New Road between Pit 1 and Pit 2

The purpose for the new road between Pit 1 and 2 was to construct Pond 2. This road is temporary and will eventually be replaced by overburden/interburden storage once mining in that area has begun. There is no need to bond for a temporary road since the area is already covered in the reclamation cost estimate as part of the disturbance area.

#### Erosion

USOS has indicated that some modifications to the drainage control plan have been made since the Notice of Intention (Notice) was approved. The figure in the Notice is being revised to reflect up-to-date drainage control measures that are more reflective of site conditions. An additional sediment pond located at the southwest toe of Pit 1 was added for drainage control. USOS cut a ditch leading to the Pond 2 in order to convey water. This ditch is within the



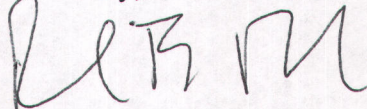
disturbed area and is not considered a massive erosion area. In the Minerals Regulatory Program, a mine operator is maintaining adequate sediment control as long as there is no evidence that sediment or erosion is travelling *off* the disturbed area boundary.

### **Old Equipment**

The Earth Energy equipment being stored in the man camp area consists of freight containers and decommissioned operating equipment made of steel. None of these items fit the regulatory definition of "Deleterious Materials" under R647-1-106 that would cause any harm to the biota or hydrologic systems in the area. The man camp remains part of the Notice as a permitted disturbance. This equipment does not need to be relocated to a separate boneyard area.

Thank you for continuing to bring your concerns to the Division's attention. Please let me know if there is any additional information that has not been considered.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'P. Baker'.

Paul Baker  
Minerals Program Manager